



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Taku MOTOHASHI et al. Attorney Docket Number: 024629-00013

Serial Number: 10/762,580 Confirmation Number: 3029

Filed: January 23, 2004 Group Art Unit: 2622

For: INQUIRY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, INQUIRY MANAGEMENT METHOD,  
INQUIRY SORTING SYSTEM AND INQUIRY SORTING METHOD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: May 5, 2004

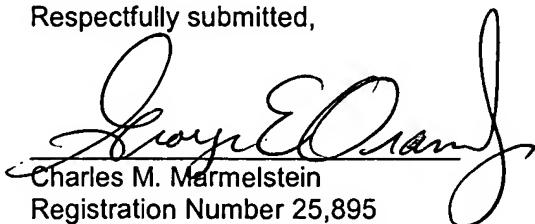
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information items listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the items be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

- c. Check number in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicants hereby petition that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check number in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
4. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449  
References (3)

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER  
024629-00013SERIAL NUMBER  
10/762,580

## LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Taku MOTOHASHI et al.

FILING DATE

January 23, 2004

GROUP ART UNIT  
2622

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	YES	NO	PART.
	AG	08-106496	April 23, 1996	Japan						X
	AH	2000-115254	April 21, 2000	Japan						X
	AI	2001-282814	October 12, 2001	Japan						X
	AJ									
	AK									
	AL									

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AM	
	AN	
	AO	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.